

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A bacterial production host comprising:

- a) a plasmid comprising:
 - (i) a target gene to be expressed; and
 - (ii) a replicon controlled by antisense-RNA regulation; and
- b) a mutation in a gene selected from the group consisting of *thrS*, *rpsA*, *rpoC*, *yjeR*, and ~~and~~ *rhoL* wherein the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *thrS* gene is SEQ ID NO:19; the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *rpsA* gene is SEQ ID NO:21; the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *rpoC* gene is SEQ ID NO:22; the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *yjeR* gene is SEQ ID NO:23; and the sequence of the mutated *rhoL* gene is SEQ ID NO:25.

Claim 2 (original): A bacterial production host according to Claim 1 wherein the host is *E. coli*.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A bacterial production host ~~according to Claim 2~~ comprising:

- a) a plasmid comprising:
 - (i) a target gene to be expressed; and
 - (ii) a replicon controlled by anti-sense RNA regulation; and
- b) a mutation in a gene selected from the group consisting of *thrS*, *rpsA*, *rpoC*, *yjeR*, and *rhoL* where the mutation of the *thrS* gene is at the 1798679 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; the mutation of the *rpsA* gene is at 962815 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; the mutation of the *rpoC* gene is at 4187062 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; the mutation of the *yjeR* gene is at 4389704 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; and the mutation of the *rhoL* gene is at 3963892 base of the *E. coli* chromosome;

wherein the bacterial production host is *E. coli*.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to any of Claims 1-3 wherein the plasmid of step (a) comprises a replicon selected from the group consisting of p15A and pMB1.

Claim 5 (original): A bacterial production host according to any of Claims 1-3 wherein the target gene encodes a polypeptide useful in the production of a genetic end product selected from the group consisting of isoprenoids, carotenoids, terpenoids, tetrapyrroles, polyketides, vitamins, amino acids, fatty acids, proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, antimicrobial agents, anticancer agents, poly-hydroxyalkanoic acid synthases, nitrilases, nitrile hydratases, amidases, enzymes used in the production of synthetic silk proteins, pyruvate decarboxylases, alcohol dehydrogenases, and biological metabolites.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to any of Claims 1-3 wherein the target gene is selected from the group consisting of *crtE*, *crtB*, *crtI*, *crtY*, *crtX* and ~~and~~ *crtZ*.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1-3~~ selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas*, *Shewanella*, *Erwinia*, *Proteus*, *Enterobacter*, *Actinobacillus*, *Yersinia*, and *Pantoea*.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1-3~~ wherein the host is an enteric bacteria.

Claim 9 (original): A bacterial production host according to claim 8 selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia* and *Salmonella*.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for the expression of a target gene comprising:

- a) providing a ~~an~~ bacterial production host according to any one of Claims 1-3 ~~comprising a target gene to be expressed; and~~ and

- b) growing the bacterial production host ~~microorganism~~ of step (a) under suitable conditions wherein the target gene is expressed.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to Claim 10 wherein the target gene encodes a polypeptide useful in the production of a genetic end product selected from the group consisting of isoprenoids, carotenoids, terpenoids, tetrapyrroles, polyketides, vitamins, amino acids, fatty acids, proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, antimicrobial agents, anticancer agents, poly-hydroxyalkanoic acid synthases, nitrilases, nitrile hydratases, amidases, enzymes used in the production of synthetic silk proteins, pyruvate decarboxylases, alcohol dehydrogenases, and biological metabolites.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11 wherein the target gene is selected from the group consisting of *crtE*, *crtB*, *crtI*, *crtY*, *crtX* and ~~and~~ *crtZ*.